

46497

✓ Working subject in Parliament House

Ottawa, April 28, 1920

Hon. Benjamin Callant, M.P.,
Bloomsfield, P.E.I.

Dear Mr. Callant:

I am sending under separate cover a copy of the Hansard for Friday last, which will let you see that when the estimates of the Marine Department were under consideration, Mr. Sinclair and I strongly urged the Government to have the \$2,000,000 icebreaker about to be constructed, so built as to serve the purpose of a car ferry for use between the Island and the mainland in off seasons, and as a supplement to the car ferry at other times in case of emergency.

The Minister has promised to give this suggestion favourable consideration if marine experts believe it to be feasible. I understand that it is not only feasible, but that in every way it is exactly what is needed. Perhaps among our friends on the Island, something might be done by way of acquainting the public with the circumstance that Mr. Sinclair and I had been instrumental in getting this undertaking from the Minister, and to have the announcement followed up by the circulation of petitions in all quarters of the Island, urging upon the Government the desirability and necessity of adopting the course suggested. The matter is one which will have to be given prompt attention, as the Commons has already voted \$2,000,000 for the purpose of the icebreaker, and the Minister will be having plans and specifications prepared and calling for tenders almost any day.

I can think of no matter which is of such considerable moment to the Islanders as a whole as that of having a second car ferry. Here is the opportunity, and the most should be made of it in every way.

Yours very sincerely,

WLMK

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

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